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ONLY 35¢**

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THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU

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TM



**SUDDENLY...
SHOCKWAVE!**



"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father. Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu**, the most insidiously evil man on earth...and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my *name*.

Stan Lee
PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!**™

Featuring supporting characters

created by SAX ROHMER

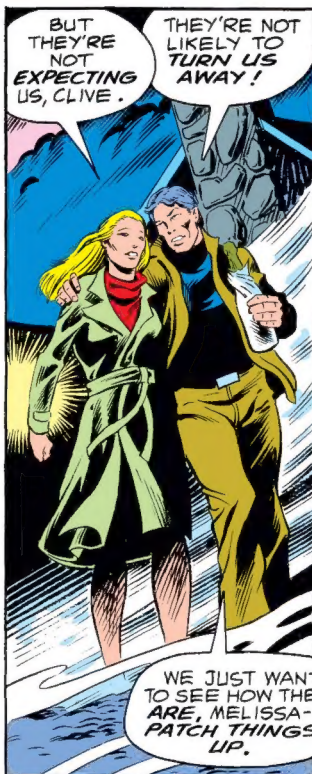
"IT HAD BEEN A NIGHT OF SMALL, TENDER EVENTS, QUIET TIMES IN WHICH SOOTHED SPIRITS COULD HEAL..."

**TRAITORS
TO THE
CROWN**

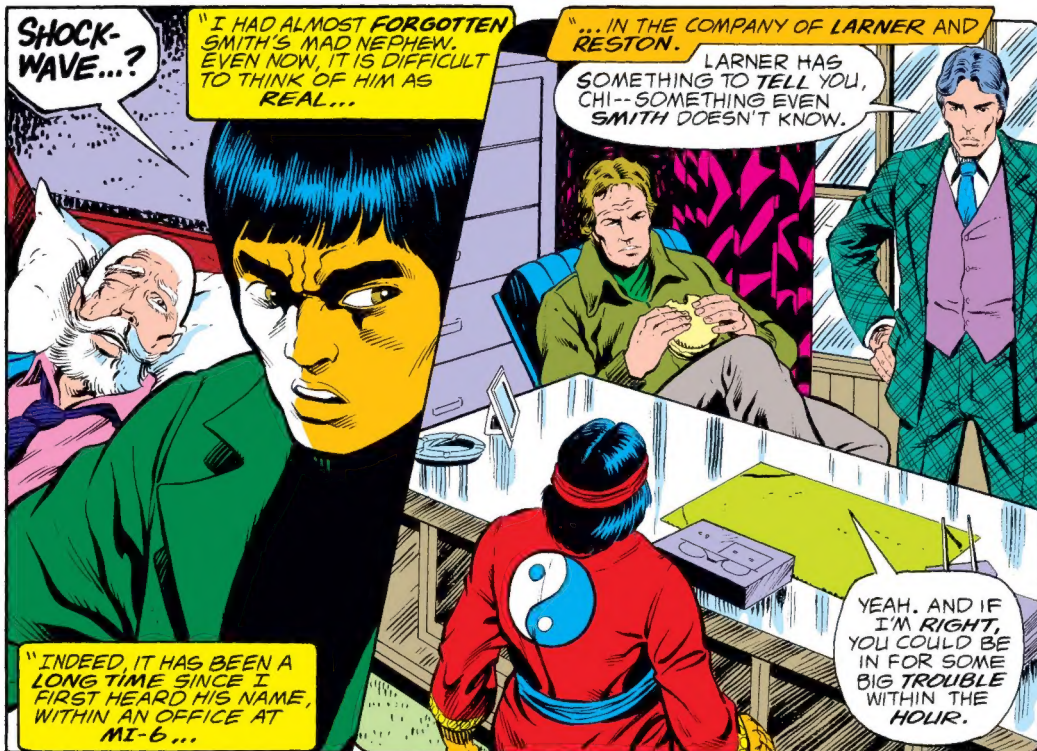


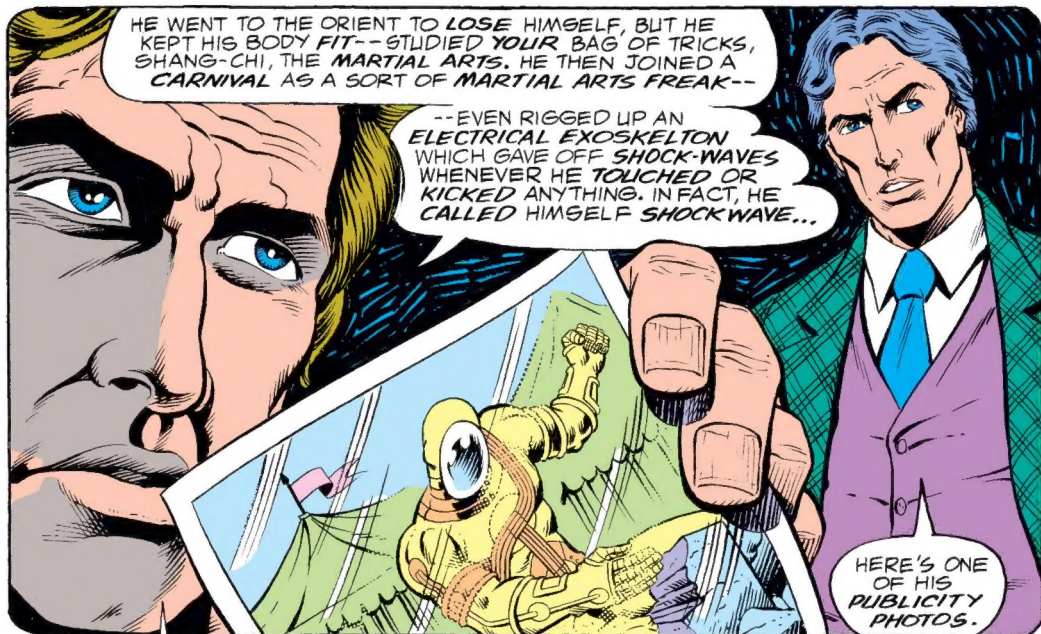
"...A NIGHT IN WHICH BROKEN TIES WERE MENDED, AND THE FRAGMENTS OF PAST AND PRESENT WERE DRAWN TOGETHER, BUT NOW..."

DOUG MOENCH / MIKE ZECK / BRUCE D. / GASPAR S. / LETTERER / ROGER STERN, EDITOR
WRITER / ARTIST / INKER / GLYNIS W., COLORIST / JIM SHOOTER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF









HE WENT TO THE ORIENT TO LOSE HIMSELF, BUT HE KEPT HIS BODY FIT--STUDIED YOUR BAG OF TRICKS, SHANG-CHI, THE MARTIAL ARTS. HE THEN JOINED A CARNIVAL AS A SORT OF MARTIAL ARTS FREAK--

--EVEN RIGGED UP AN ELECTRICAL EXOSKELTON WHICH GAVE OFF SHOCK-WAVES WHENEVER HE TOUCHED OR KICKED ANYTHING. IN FACT, HE CALLED HIMSELF SHOCKWAVE...

HERE'S ONE OF HIS PUBLICITY PHOTOS.

SHOWS ONE OF HIS BIGGEST CROWD-PLEASERS--DEMOLISHING A FIVE BY TEN FOOT BLOCK OF SOLID CONCRETE WITH A SINGLE ELECTRICAL KARATE CHOP.

HOW DOES THIS CONCERN ME, LARNER?



YOU'RE ALMOST AS IMPATIENT AS MY FATHER WAS, CHI. TELL HIM THE REST, LARNER.

SNEED HAS QUIT THE CARNIVAL TO GO BACK TO WHAT HE KNOWS BEST--OUR LINE OF WORK--OR "GAMES OF DECEIT AND DEATH" AS YOU CALL IT.

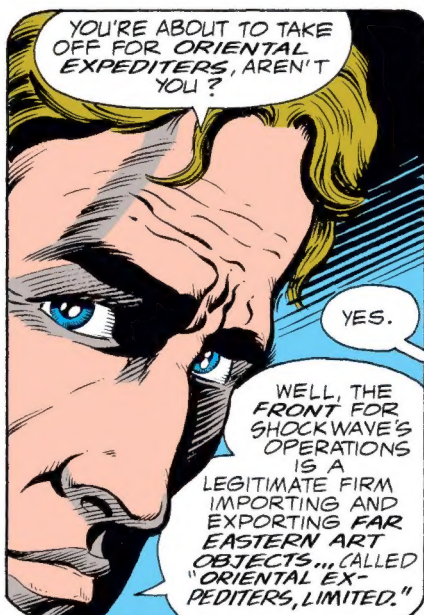
I STILL DO NOT SEE HOW THIS CONCERNS ME...



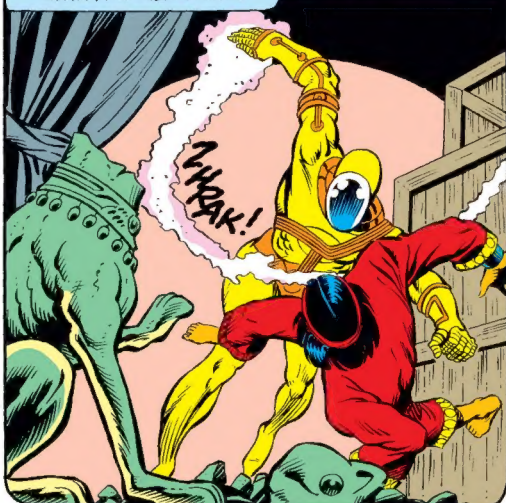
YOU'RE ABOUT TO TAKE OFF FOR ORIENTAL EXPEDITERS, AREN'T YOU?

YES.

WELL, THE FRONT FOR SHOCKWAVE'S OPERATIONS IS A LEGITIMATE FIRM IMPORTING AND EXPORTING FAR EASTERN ART OBJECTS... CALLED "ORIENTAL EXPEDITERS, LIMITED."



"THEY WERE RIGHT. IT WAS AT ORIENTAL EXPEDITERS WHERE I FIRST MET SMITH'S NEPHEW.



"...AND WHERE I WAS BADLY BEATEN AND BURNED.

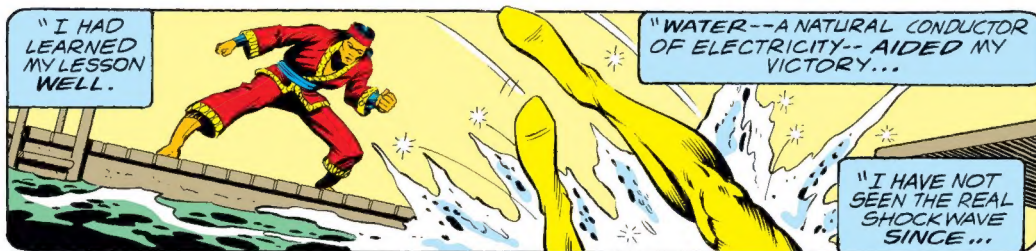


"IT WAS A LESSON IN PROFOUND PAIN.

"OUR SECOND MEETING OCCURRED ON THE SWISS ESTATE OF SIR HERBERT GRISWOLD.



"I HAD LEARNED MY LESSON WELL.



"WATER--A NATURAL CONDUCTOR OF ELECTRICITY--AIDED MY VICTORY...

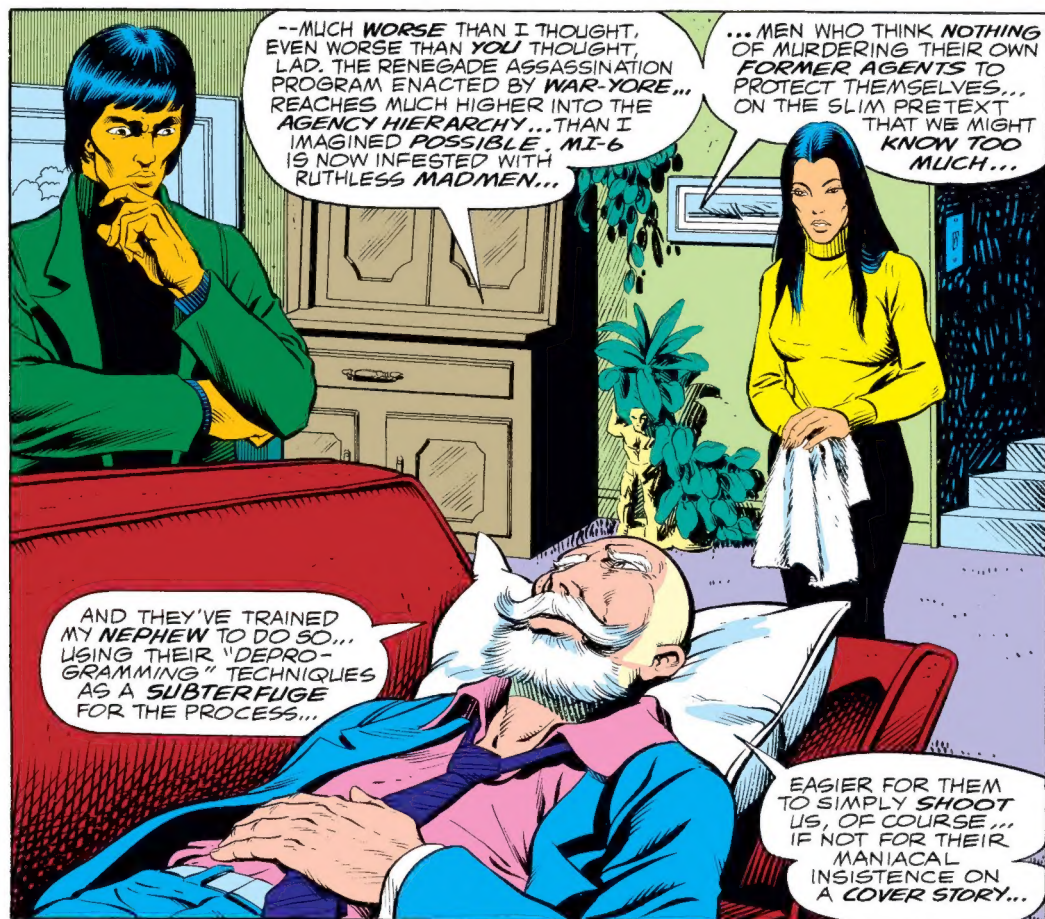
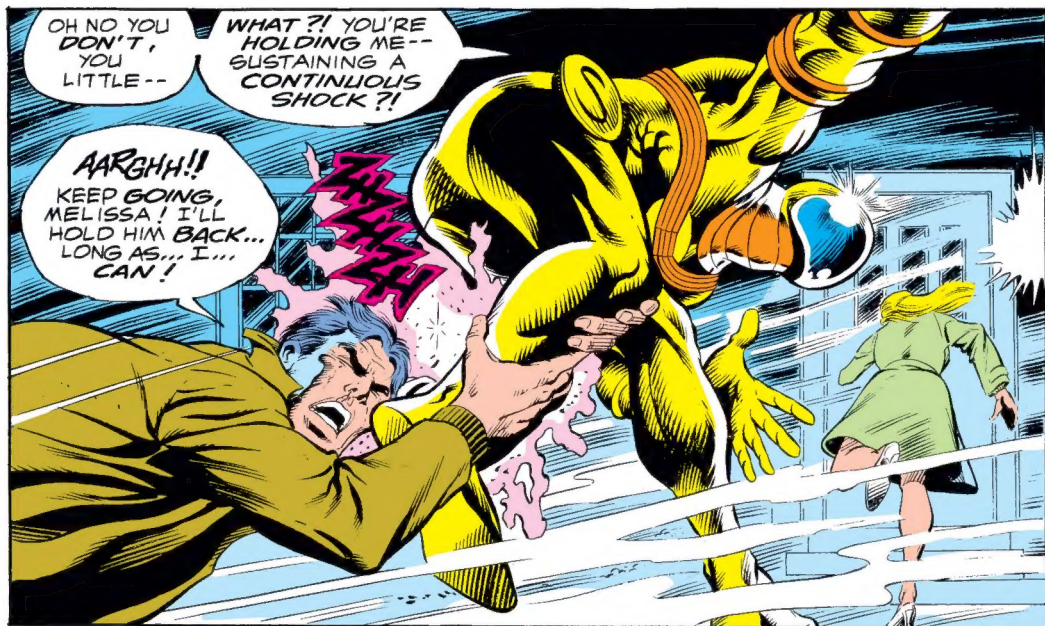
"I HAVE NOT SEEN THE REAL SHOCKWAVE SINCE..."

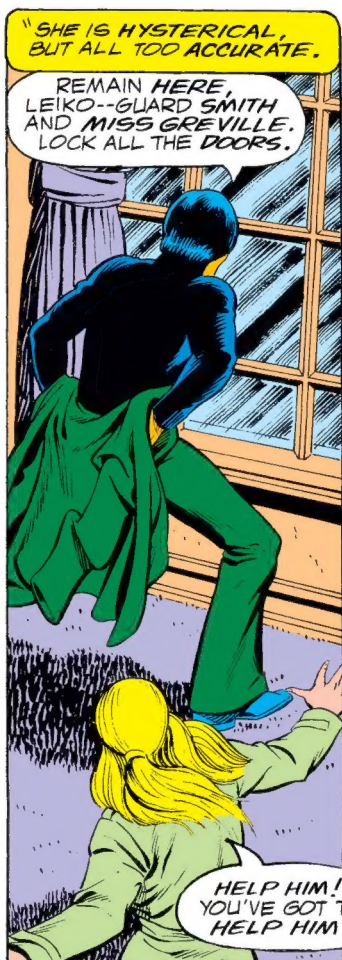
"...BUT I LATER LEARNED HE HAD BEEN A MERE PUPPET, SEEMING TO SERVE MY SISTER... BUT ACTUALLY PLAYING A ROLE IN THE DEVIOUS SCHEME OF MY FATHER'S MASTER PLAN.

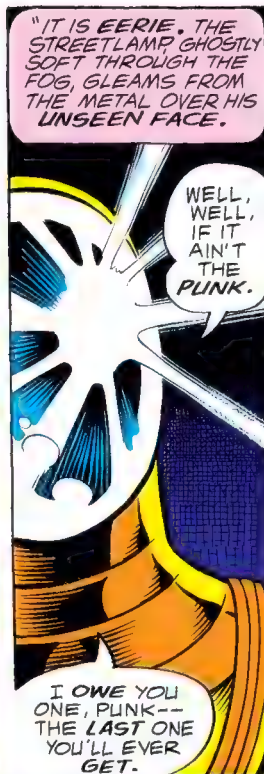


AND NOW... SHOCK-WAVE HAS TRIED TO KILL YOU? BUT WHY?











"AND NOW, I STRIKE--"

"--KNOWING THE MERE CONTACT WILL PAIN ME MORE THAN HIM."

"BUT I HAVE FORGOTTEN HOW MUCH! IT STUNS ME, LEAVES ME OPEN. THERE IS A HUMMING IN MY SKULL!"

ZHRAK

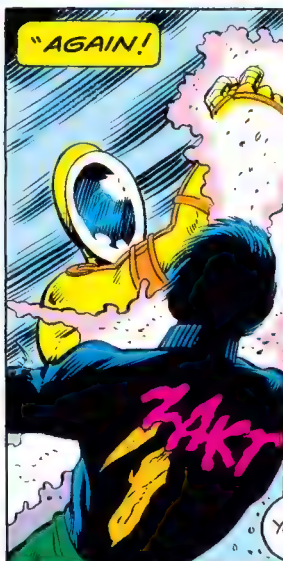


"HAIRS BRISTLE EVERYWHERE ON MY BODY. I TASTE A BITTER TREMBLING TANG: METAL."



"AGAIN."

ZHAK



"AGAIN!"

ZAKT

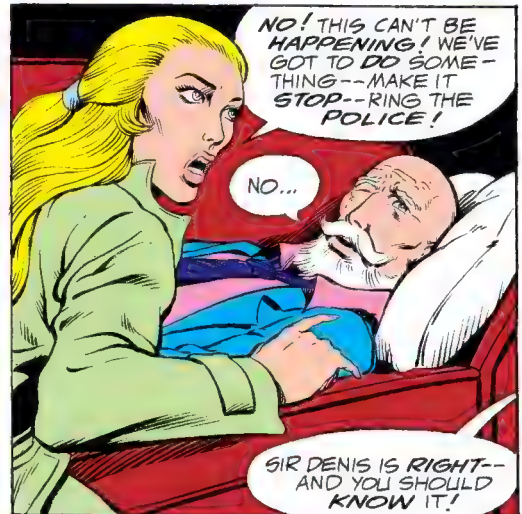


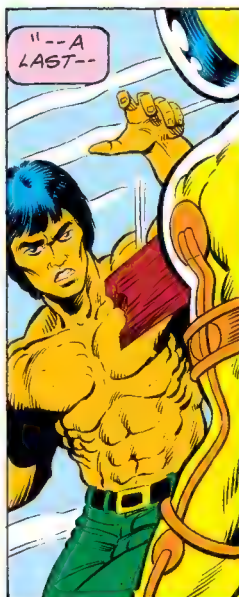
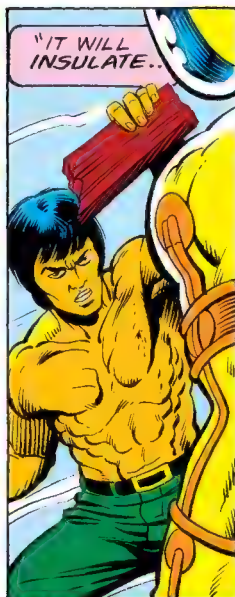
"THE DARKNESS SWIMS, FILLING WITH SWIRLED FOG TURNING TO A RED HAZE."

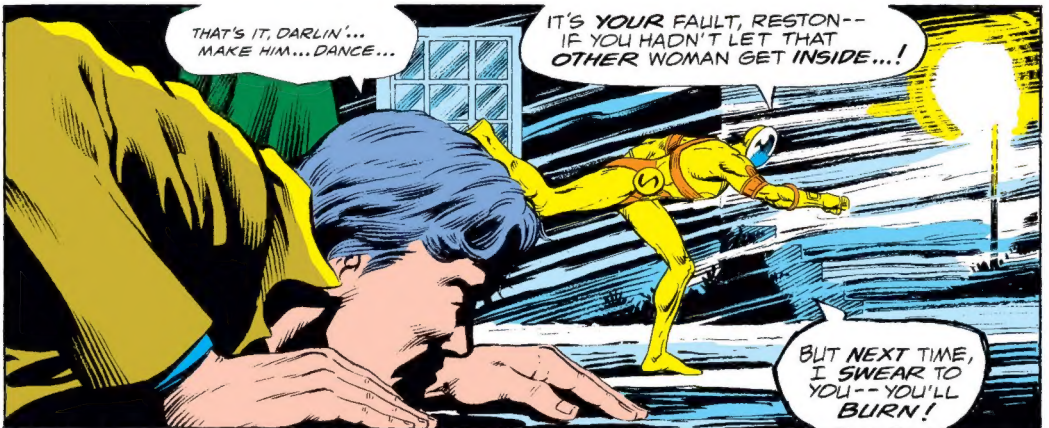
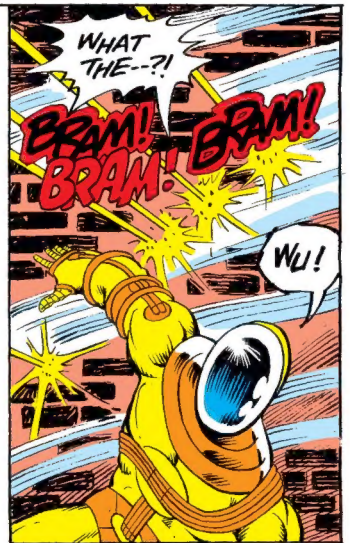
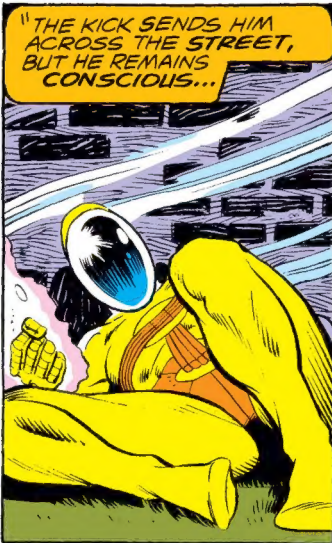
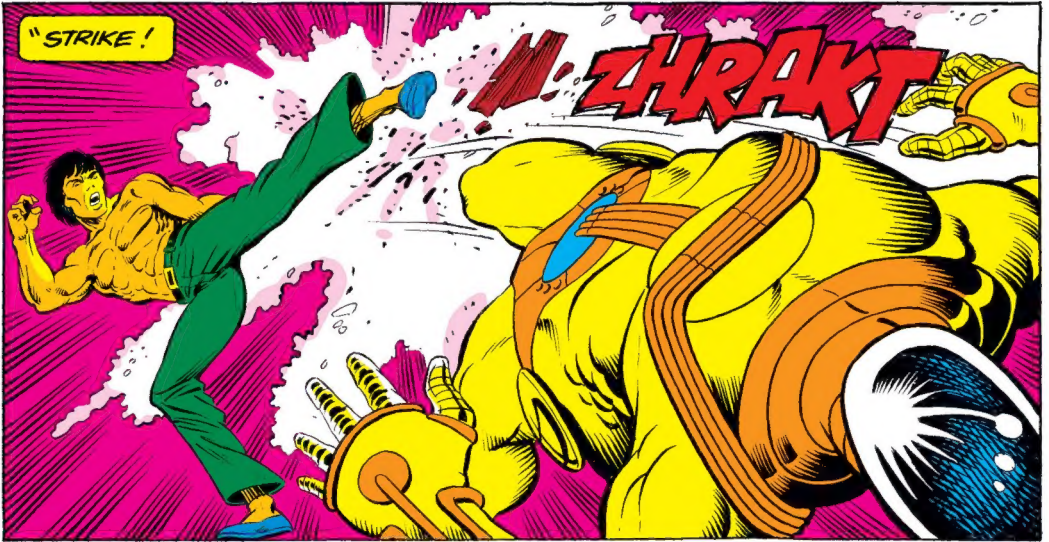
NOW, PUNK, YOU'RE GONNA DIE."

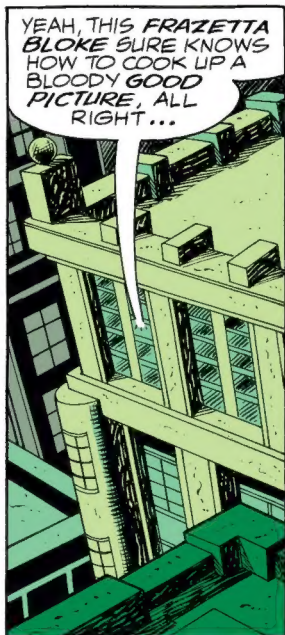
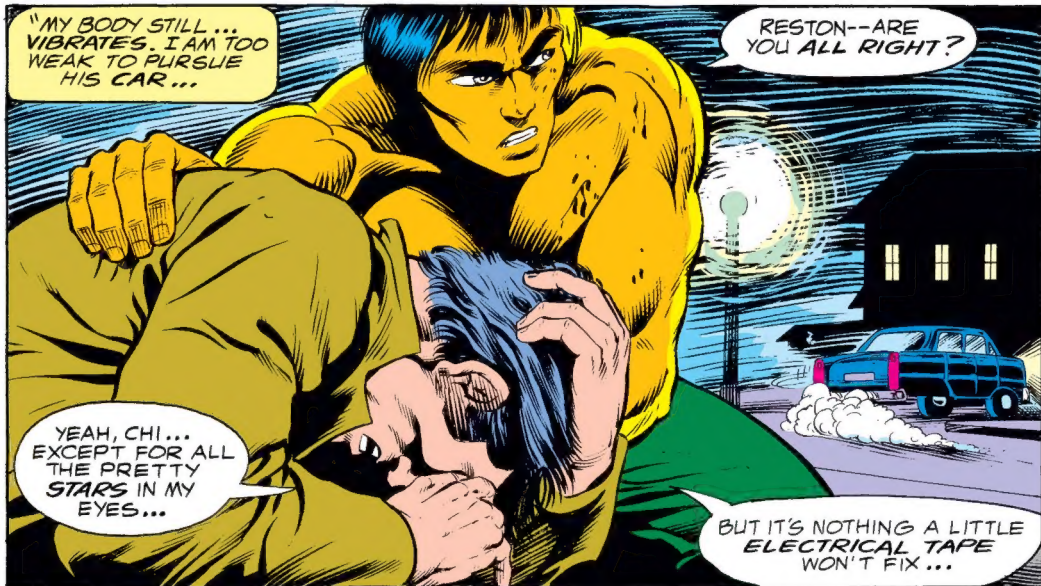
WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT?













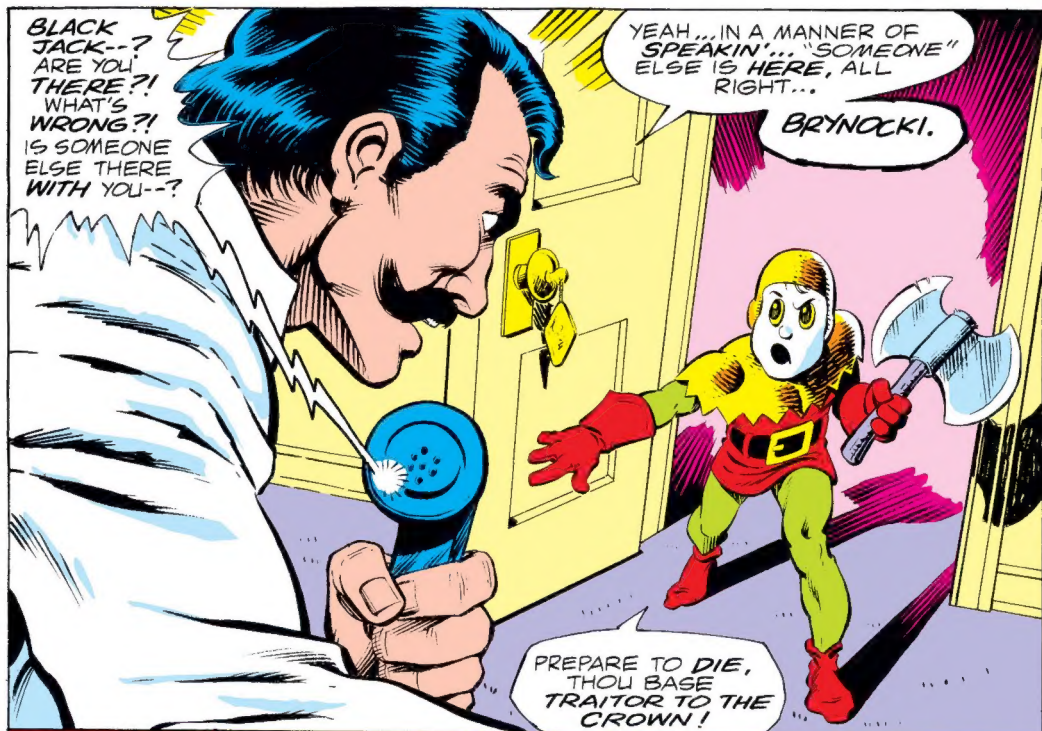
I SAID: SHOCKWAVE JUST TRIED TO MURDER SIR DENIS, CLIVE, AND SHANG. YOU'RE PROBABLY NEXT.

AND TELL BLACK JACK THAT MI-6 HAS GIVEN LANCASTER FULL DISPOSAL OF ALL THEIR RESOURCES -- INCLUDING EVERYTHING WE'VE EVER CAPTURED FROM OUR ENEMIES



ALL RIGHT, WU, I GUESS I HEARD YA RIGHT THE FIRST TI--

WHAT'S UP, DOC?



BLACK JACK--? ARE YOU THERE?! WHAT'S WRONG?! IS SOMEONE ELSE THERE WITH YOU--?

YEAH...IN A MANNER OF SPEAKIN'... "SOMEONE" ELSE IS HERE, ALL RIGHT...

BRYNOCKI.

PREPARE TO DIE, THOU BASE TRAITOR TO THE CROWN!

**NEXT
ISSUE**

A RETURN TO THE MALEVOLENTLY MUTATED MORDILLO ISLE,

in-- **PRISONERS OF THE CROWN!**

MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

ROGER STERN
EDITOR
JIM SALICRUP
ASSISTANT EDITOR

SPECIAL NOTE: A goodly number of you faithful Marvel minions have been taking us to task for missing letters pages with greater frequency of late. Believe us, we are as dismayed about it as you are—especially since in 95% of the cases, a letters page has been assembled, typeset, and pasted up for the issue in which it made its non-appearance. You see, due to a shift in printing schedules, our printers have been getting the books on the presses without waiting for the letters pages. Well, we've straightened out that problem at last, and until some new problem comes along, you can look forward to regular page-loads of your priceless praise and pans. Keep writing, friends!

Hi Doug—

All right! A Galacy cover (beautiful!) while the story itself has become a baroque extravaganza as everyone *except* the Si-Fan is playing a cross between "cops and robbers" and "button, button" over those insane crates! Thanks for including the neutron bomb plans—a very *real* menace to me, and one over which I can work up enough angst to suspend my disbelief at Kogar's "bizarre" (your word) hideout. Looks a little like old times at Hydra, but what the hey, those *were* good stories—and as far as characterization goes, you've had 'em outclassed all along. The ludicrous bumbling of the MI-6 agents gave me a chuckle—just enough humor to carry the narrative past the tense period of waiting, and to set up a contrast for the shocking twist in the last panel wherein Shang-Chi "sur-renders."

Doug, you write great mystery stories, tales which are actually difficult to appreciate in 17 page monthly installments—that is, to *fully* appreciate. When this multi-parter is finished, I intend to do it justice in a one-sitting reread. . . something I don't do with just any comic, you know. And I recommend this to your other readers too.

My only objection so far is the art, which I find mediocre. A more creative inker would help a lot; Jim Craig is not a *bad* penciler by any means, but he needs a *great* inker to make his work shine, that's all.

This letter would be incomplete without some reference to the Celestial One and the Si-Fan, so let me inform you that I was sitting on my front porch one morning when I suddenly realized exactly *who* Fu Manchu's American wife is! I will name no names, but suffice to say that the convincing reports of her "suicide" by sleeping pills were so demonically clever that even I was fooled for years!

Cat Yronwode
Route 1, Box 43
Mtn. Grove, MO 65711

Dear Marvel,

To say that Doug Moench's "Black Knights" in MASTER OF KUNG FU #65 was fast-paced would be akin to saying Rembrandt's "Night Watch" was a pretty good painting. Rarely, if ever, have I seen a comic book story that went by so fast and still had so much depth to it. Plot details and character elucidation are often sacrificed on the comics altar of fast action, one reason why it is so refreshing to read a tale achieving such lofty heights in terms of excitement without losing track of what the whole thing is about. Watching Shang-Chi fight desperately to keep Juliette and himself alive while Clive Reston and Miss Greville and Leiko Wu and Black Jack Tarr all try to unravel the mystery surrounding Shen Kuei was a bit like viewing "Thunderball" (still, to my mind, the best of the Bonds) for the first time. A great many thrilling things happened in a very short period of time and, though some of the details were thrown at us one on top of the other, everything neatly fell into place once the many seemingly disjointed events were connected during the course of the story. In this instance, the tie that binds was a common-looking crate whose contents are still a mystery. But, to paraphrase Sam Spade, we know the value in life certain people put on it—certain people like Kogar, a bloated modern pirate who arranged the death of Shen Kuei's brother through the actions of a pitifully unsuspecting Juliette; people like Skullcrusher, a heartless assassin with ice water in his veins; people like Pavane, a sadistic hellcat who is definitely more than a kitten with a whip. With such a cast, it's not surprising that "Black Knights" had a lot going for it as far as violent conflict between its characters is concerned. But what is surprising, and enormously impressive, is that such a great story got told so fast and so well without anyone being slighted and without the main protagonist being robbed of the spotlight. Doug, I really don't know how you did it, but I want you to know it's really appreciated.

Ed Via
1648 Dean Rd.
Roanoke, VA 24018

Dear Doug,

Comic distribution being what it is over here, I've only just read MOKF #61, but I just had to write and let you know how much I appreciated it.

"Glass Orchids" was a particularly apt title. There was something very fragile and delicate about this story. I felt that at any moment the characters involved might crumble or shatter at the slightest indelicate touch. And this was also true of the story itself; in many ways it reminded me of "The Clock of Shattered Time" in that the plot always seemed to be connected by the slenderest of threads.

Fitting, too, to use the hobbies of the main characters in the manner they were. Both orchids and stained glass served not only as recurring themes but also as exceptional metaphors for the inner lives of Leiko and Reston.

Which leads to one of MOKF's strongest points: Not only does this comic have one of the largest supporting casts anywhere, but also the best developed, and the only one which seems to continue developing. They are not static stereotypes but real people who change and grow as their lives develop around them. In this book it is not only the hero's "rising and advancing of the spirit" we are privileged to witness.

Finally, the Fleetwood Mac bits were another nice touch.

I hope you can maintain this high standard of writing. If so, many of us will rise and advance with you.

Dean Smith
39 Upland Ave.
Chesham, Bucks, England

As you've probably noticed, People, we've kept uncharacteristically quiet until now, the better to conserve space for the letters themselves. This necessitates a collective vote of thanks to Ed, Cat (Hmmm?), and Dean, whom we hasten to assure—along with the rest of you—that yes, indeed, we hope to maintain the level of quality exhibited in the past. At MOKF, we always try to specialize in being special. For example...

Next issue we get wacky—although the fun and games are decidedly deadly—as Shang-Chi and Leiko make a return trip to a somewhat altered Mordillo Isle. Believe us, you ain't gonna believe it!

Until then... be good.

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT THE WATERS WERE SAFE AGAIN...

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